Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EB-11 FEAE-00 TRSE-00 EPA-04 COME-00 CEQ-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6101

UNCLAS MANILA 9836

FOR EA/PHL

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP, RP (MEJIA, JAIME AND LAQUI, MARIO)
SUBJ: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR U.S. VISIT BY OIL
INDUSTRY COMMISSION MEMBERS

- 1. OIL INDUSTRY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN PONCIANO MATHAY HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY SEEK FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR TRAVEL OF ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER JAIME MEJIA AND COMMISSION SECRETARY MARIO LAQUI.
- 2. MEJIA AND LAQUI WILL ATTEND ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM AT SPOKANE AUGUST 22-24 AND THEN TRAVEL WASHINGTON D.C. ARRIVING AUGUST 26. WILL REMAIN THROUGH AUGUST 30. TRAVEL WILL BE ENTIRELY AT OWN EXPENSE.
- 3. MEJIA AND LAQUI WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT WITH COUNTERPART AGENCIES IN U.S. ENGAGED IN REGULATION, INSPECTION AND ANY FORM OF CONTROL OVER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY SETTING OR CONTROL OF PRICES. AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH PRICES OF CRUDE AND REFINED PRODUCTS WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST AS WOULD STATE (EA/PHL AND EB FUELS AND ENERGY AND COMMERCE). THEY WILL CONTACT CUTHELL EA/PHL UPON ARRIVAL WASHINGTON, D.C. IN MEANTIME EMBASSY HOPES EA/PHL CAN ARRANGE SCHEDULE AND ADVISE VARIOUS OFFICES OF THEIR ARRIVAL. UNCLASSIFIED

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- 4. MR. MEJIA DPOB 7/3/20, ORION, BATAAN HOLDS PH.D. ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS AND IS CPA BY PROFESSION. HE IS ALSO DIRECTOR OF PHILIPPINES VETERANS BANK APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT. HAS SERVED AS PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVE TO SEVERAL UN REGIONAL CONFERENCES. HAS HELD PRESENT POSITION SINCE 1971.
- 5. LAQUI DPOB 2/8/34, MANILA IS LAW GRADUATE OF FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY AND HAS BEEN MEMBER OF BAR SINCE 1960. HE WAS APPOINTED TO PRESENT POSITION 1971. LAQUI HAS HAD LEG AMPUTATED AND MUST USE CRUTCHES TO GET ABOUT.
- 6. OIC HAS CONSIDERABLE IMPACT ON AND INPUTS INTO PHILIPPINE PETROLEUM POLICY AND LOCAL INDUSTRY, IN WHICH U.S. HAS SUBSTANTIAL COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. VISIT WOULD ENABLE MEJIA AND LAQUI TO GAIN FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC POLICIES REGARDING PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.
- 7. EMBASSY REALIZES LEAD TIME EXTREMELY SHORT BUT GOP OFFICIAL MUST GET PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORIZATION OF FOREIGN TRAVEL WHICH OFTENTIMES NOT GIVEN UNTIL LAST MINUTE. BELIEVE VALUE AS EMBASSY CONTACTS AND ROLE IN PETROLEUM POLICY DECISIONS AMPLY JUSTIFIES FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. LAQUI ESPECIALLY HAS POTENTIAL FOR BROADER ROLE IN GOP SERVICE.
- 8. REQUEST URGENT DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION IN VIEW SHORT TIME BEFORE DEPARTURE. SULLIVAN

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